

As an American citizen, I strongly object to Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election.

The airwaves are free in order to allow and encourage public interest programming. What Sinclair is doing goes against the public interest in a big way, and is a threat to freedom of public discourse and information. It is anti-democratic and anti-American. This is the danger of media consolidation. When large companies gobble up local stations and control the airwaves, we get fewer points of view, more prejudiced programming, more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. Instead of something produced at "News Central" far away, it's more important that we see real people from our own communities and hear their points of view and opinions, and that we get substantive news and informed, intelligent, thoughtful, multi-faceted debate about issues that matter - not News Central pudding.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard.

Please hear our voices! This is a terribly important matter! Thank you.